

## Fellowship Experiences

### A Maryland Sea Grant Student Blog



### Guidance to contributors

We are excited to invite you to be a guest blogger on Maryland Sea Grant's new student blog: *Fellow Experiences*! Following up on the outcomes from our recent communication workshop, we are creating this moderated blog to provide you an opportunity to contribute thoughts about (your) science for a broader audience. This blog will provide all of our fellows an opportunity to speak to your interests and experiences as a fellow or student of the sciences. We believe this will allow you to hone your communication skills, practice discussing your work with a non-scientific audience, and bring positive attention to your scientific efforts. We envision submissions that speak about current ongoing projects, fellowship experiences, science outreach or engagement events, musings about graduate student life, career choices, preparing for a major talk, and other topics relevant to your educational experience.

We are looking for first person point of view writing, more conversational than formal scientific style. Remember that for this type of communication, your audience is much broader than fellow scientists and are not necessarily scientifically literate (thus please avoid jargon!). Try to let your personality come through in your writing – give anecdotes, be passionate, and be (appropriately) funny if you want. We want to give our readers an idea of how exciting science can be and that scientists are people, too.

As this will be a moderated blog, you will submit your entries to us for posting. We are very happy to discuss your ideas as you develop them and provide feedback. If no feedback is requested, we will do minor copy editing before the entry is posted. Please send your materials to us at [blog@mdsg.umd.edu](mailto:blog@mdsg.umd.edu).

There is no hard and fast rule on the length of a blog entry, but please write at a length appropriate to the subject and the medium. In general, shorter is better. Pithiness and economy of expression are encouraged! A medium-length blog entry would run about 500-700 words. Entries above that are on the long side, and MDSG might suggest trims. But exceptions can be made. The first 400 characters of each blog post will appear on the blog's introductory page; the full text will appear on its own, separate page.

Each blog post will require at least one image that will be the main post image. You are encouraged to submit more than one image, including graphics (figures, maps, etc.), to be interspersed throughout the post. Please identify any image and provide a credit for each. We would prefer that you submit images that are in the public domain and/or that you created yourself. Other images may be copyrighted, so you please obtain permission from the source and let us know that you have done so. We can consult with you about appropriate images. Please send us a JPEG file of each image (rather than imbedding images in a Word file.) Photos should be at least 240 pixels wide at 200 dpi.

Video submissions: We also welcome video clips to be included in a written post, or video blog submissions. If you plan to provide a vblog, please contact us ahead of time to discuss your ideas (as it's very difficult to provide suggestions and edits after the fact!) If you provide a vblog, you should also include a paragraph summary or introduction for the post to accompany the video. We will post the final video on our YouTube channel, then embed it in your post

Your submissions will also require a photo of yourself, which will be included below each of your blog posts. If someone other than you took the photo, please provide the photographer's name and affiliation so that we may credit him/her in the photo's credit line. If we do not receive a separate photo, we will default to your fellow profile image ([www.mdsq.umd.edu/fellows](http://www.mdsq.umd.edu/fellows)).

Please provide a blurb (about 80 words max) briefly describing yourself; we'll display these under each of your blog posts. E.g. undergraduate field of study / alma mater, home state or town, what you do when you're not doing science, etc. We have that information for many of you (<http://www.mdsq.umd.edu/fellows>), but it's best for you to write this personal tag.

We ask that each fellow provide at least 1 post per semester (2 per year). However, this is a minimum; we welcome you to submit as often as you have a story to share with our audiences.

Moderated commenting will be provided through Disqus. We encourage you to reply to comments on your posts as well as to comment on other fellows' posts.

We will share your posts using our social media outlets. We encourage you to share the link to your (and your colleagues') posts through your own networks.

Disclaimer: The MDSG team reserves the right at its discretion not to post an entry, for example, if it does not meet the guidelines for content.